(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The works for strengthening and extension of runway with allied works have been awarded on 4th March, 2005.

Decline in international fares

2195. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to Government's decision to open up the global skies by allowing competition from private airlines and by liberalising air connectivity with outside world international airfares from India have sharply come down;

(b) if so, how far the international air fares have come down during 2004-2005, with respect to AI, the national carriers; and

(c) how it is likely to affect Air India's and Indian Airlines' profitability and viability indicating comparative profit and loss figures of AI and IA during 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) With increase in international connectivity to/from India and greater competition between airlines, fare levels on international sectors have come down sharply, which has benefited the passengers travelling to/from India on international routes. Air India has also reduced its fares by 10 per cent to 20 per cent on different routes to remain competitive.

(c) In order to achieve profitability/viability both Air India and Indian Airlines would need to offer competitive fares and reduce costs. The profit/loss figures for Air India/Indian Airlines are as follows:

	Air India (Rs. Crore)	Indian Airlines (Rs. Crore)
2002-2003	133.86	-192.56 (loss)
2003-2004	92.33	44.17

Airport in Ludhiana

2196. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct an airport somewhere near Ludhiana in Punjab to cater the needs of large number of people of Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur districts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal from the State Government of Punjab to construct a Greenfield International Airport at Ladowal near Ludhiana. State Government has been requested to complete the essential requirements for the project including pre-feasibility study and the clearance from the Ministry of Defence.

Refund of Investors Money from NBFCS

†2197. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have succeeded in getting the money refunded to the investors from the non-banking companies which vanished with their money;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the money of investors will be refunded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) A Coordination and Monitoring Committee, co-chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Company Affairs and Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India has been set up to look into various issues relating to vanishing companies and their promoters and for monitoring the progress of action against them. Accordingly, prosecutions have been filed against vanishing companies and their Promoters/Directors under Sections 62/63, 68 and 628 of the Companies Act. Besides, First Information Reports have been filed against Directors/ Promoters of 92 vanishing companies for offences punishable under Sections 420, 406, 403, 415, 418 and 424 of the Indian Penal Code.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.